

SUMMARY

HOPE VI Community Meeting #4

The Martin Luther King Revitalization Plan

Wednesday, January 5, 2005

320 N. Commerce Park Loop

Sentinel Building

Focus on HOPE VI Planned Community and Supportive Services

Jack Siry, Community Services Deputy Director introduced staff, gave a brief overview of what was discussed at the previous meetings, reminded residents of the future January 11, 2005 meeting date when Mayor & Council acting as the Public Housing Governing Board will consider the HOPE VI application. He also explained that meeting minutes, power points, and comment sheets are available on the City of Tucson Website.

The meeting agenda would include the Executive Summary which will be presented at the Mayor & Council meeting on January 11, 2005.

Jack Siry & Jane Bell presented the Power Point "HOPE VI Martin Luther King Revitalization Plan - Executive Summary.

Jack presented the HOPE VI Martin Luther King Revitalization Plan which includes expanded and improved housing opportunities for public housing residents; low-income tenants and market rate tenants; homeownership opportunities for affordable homebuyers and market rate buyers; resident services; and the development of commercial space and new parking garage.

Some of the items included in the plan are physical developments of two communities and relocation:

Martin Luther King Apartment

Currently the Martin Luther King Apartments have 96 public housing units. Once the revitalization is complete, the new building will have 68 public housing units, 89 market rate rental units, and 11 affordable rental units. Congress Street Redevelopment (CSR) will develop the 89 market rate and 11 affordable rental units. They will also develop the commercial space along Congress Street and North 5th Avenue, on the street level below the residential units.

Silverbell Site

Currently this site is an empty 30-acre lot owned by the City of Tucson. New construction of this site includes a mixed income, single family development that is planned for this site. A total of 28 Public housing replacement units will be newly constructed in conjunction with two affordable rental units, 97 market rate homes and eight affordable for sale single family homes. A developer for the market rate and affordable for sale units will be proposed to Mayor & Council on January 11, 2005.

Relocation

Residents will be given the choice to permanently or temporarily relocate to another public housing unit or accept a Section 8 housing choice voucher. Residents may make the choice to return to a new unit at MLK or the new Silverbell development upon completion of construction.

Architectural plans, for both sites were displayed and often referred to at this meeting.

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Question and Answer

1. When will we (residents) be notified if grant was funded?

Answer:

Jack: Grant is due on February 1, 2005. Notice of awards should be provided in May 2005, but it may be later.

2. How will we know if the information proposed to Mayor and Council is approved?

Answer:

Residents are encouraged to attend the Mayor and Council meeting where results are given immediately or Diane Reese will post results at the MLK building

3. What does HOPE VI fund?

Answer:

HOPE VI provides funding for Public Housing units and the proposed social services. Partners role is to provide market rate housing units.

4. Whether or not the plan is approved will you go forward with the plan?

Answer:

Yes

5. If the grant is not funded, will you keep trying?

Answer:

We currently have a back up plan. We would use bond money to complete this plan and then pay it back with Capital Fund monies we receive annually from HUD.

6. Is the Tucson House an option for relocation?

Answer:

Yes, Tucson House and other Public Housing units that are available in the community will be options.

7. Which site will be constructed first, MLK or Silverbell? What is the phase order?

Answer:

Depends on many things including financing. The Silverbell units may come first. Before construction, we must apply for low income housing tax credits, and address the community concerns such as transportation. We will work with Department of Transportation regarding the transportation issues in the Silverbell site area.

8. What's happening with the 4th Ave tunnel?

Answer:

Eventually there will be two tunnels in the 4th Ave area. When completed, the old tunnel will only serve pedestrians, and the new tunnel will be strictly for vehicles. Greyhound will move for the 4th Ave project to be undertaken.

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Jane presented Community Social Services (CSS) commitments from prospective partners. Although there are many prospective partners, HOPE VI staff will continue to seek new partners so that the residents can benefit from as many services as possible.

Tucson Police Department

To provide extra security – two new midnight squads to work in the downtown area
Provide safety awareness workshops
Assist residents in forming a neighborhood watch program

Tucson Pima-Public Library

Provide computer workshops at the Main Library and at the new Martin Luther King building once complete.
Offer two non-permanent page list positions for a four-year period (first preference given to MLK residents)

Parks & Recreation

Offer programs at Armory Park and El Rio

RISE, Inc

A community-based development organization will offer job training

DIRECT Center for Independence, inc

Provide independent living training skills and Benefit Planning assistance for disabled individuals. This assistance is geared to people who want to work but do not want to jeopardize their SSI payments.

Family Housing Resources

Provide bilingual homeownership preparatory classes. Including:
Credit Counseling Pre-occupancy counseling
Homebuyer education programs
Post-mortgage default and rent delinquency counseling
Home improvement counseling

U of A Mobile Health Clinic

Available twice a month.
Provide preventive health care maintenance, health education, advocacy and resource information, and state-of-the-art wellness services

Lutheran Social Ministries of the Southwest

A congregation in Green Valley has committed to work with the MLK residents and will provide Social Activities such as:
Game nights

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Lutheran Social Ministries of the Southwest (contd.)

Bingo

Musical performances

Crafts

MLK residents will have an opportunity to suggest other interests

Tucson House Residents

Wrote a letter of support and have pledged to offer assistance with the onsite grocery store.

Calli Olin

Downtown Charter school.

Work with residents on an art project that will be determined by the students and residents once the grant is awarded.

U of A

Evaluate HOPE VI Martin Luther King Revitalization Plan, and make sure HOPE VI stays on track with activities and goals. Track goals and impact of services offered to residents.

Transportation Services

Provide transportation services in the form of a van and driver that will take residents of MLK, Silverbell, and the new market rate units, where space is available, on field trips.

Onsite Equipment

Provide exercise and computer equipment at the new MLK building.

Question and Answer

On the game part of the services, will there be multiple games?

Answer:

Lutheran Social Ministries will conduct surveys to figure out which games and social activities are preferred.